



HARSHA

A GALLANT KING OF KANAUJ

Vol 627 | Rs 35

www.amarchitrakatha.com





The route to your roots

When they look back at their formative years, many Indians nostalgically recall the vital part Amar Chitra Katha picture books have played in their lives. It was **ACK – Amar Chitra Katha** – that first gave them a glimpse of their glorious heritage.

Since they were introduced in 1967, there are now **over 400 Amar Chitra Katha** titles to choose from. **Over 90 million copies** have been sold worldwide.

Now the Amar Chitra Katha titles are even more widely available in **500+ bookstores all across India**. Log on to www.ack-media.com to locate a bookstore near you. If you do not have access to a bookstore, you can buy all the titles through our online store www.theackshop.com. We provide quick delivery anywhere in the world.

To make it easy for you to locate the titles of your choice from our treasure trove of titles, the books are now arranged in five categories.

Epics and Mythology

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Indian Classics

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Fables and Humour

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

Bravehearts

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

Visionaries

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Script

Yagya Sharma
Anand Prakash Singh

Illustrations

Madhu Powle

Editor

Anant Pai

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1972, Reprinted October 2008, ISBN 81 - 89999-66-4
Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 14 Marthanda, 4th floor,
84 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Mumbai 400 018. India

<https://archive.org/details/muthulakshmiacademy>



ABOUT 1,400 YEARS AGO, THANESHWAR, A POWERFUL KINGDOM IN NORTHERN INDIA WAS RULED BY PRABHAKAR VARDHAN. DURING THIS PERIOD THE HUNS HAD STARTED HARASSING THE PEOPLE OF THANESHWAR. SO THE KING SENT HIS ABLE SONS TO PUNISH THEM.

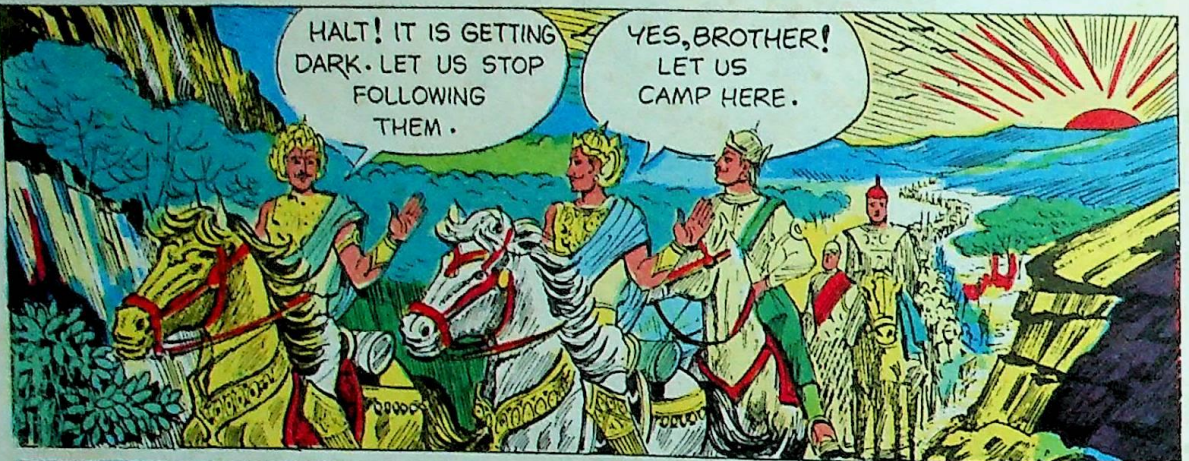
AFTER A BITTER FIGHT, THE
HUNS RETREATED.

VICTORY TO PRINCE
RAJYAVARDHAN! VICTORY
TO PRINCE HARSHA!



HALT! IT IS GETTING
DARK. LET US STOP
FOLLOWING
THEM.

YES, BROTHER!
LET US
CAMP HERE.

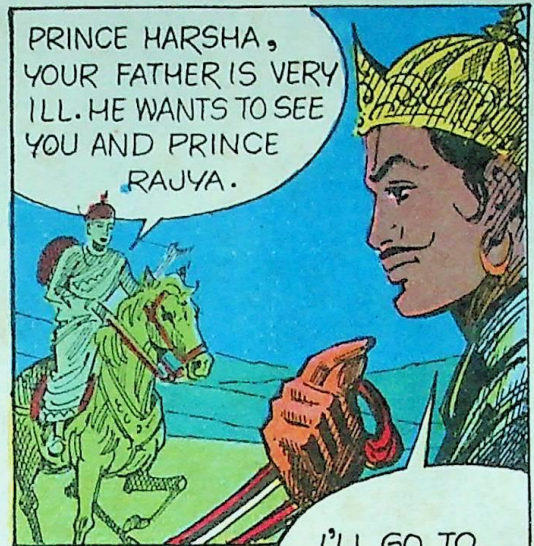
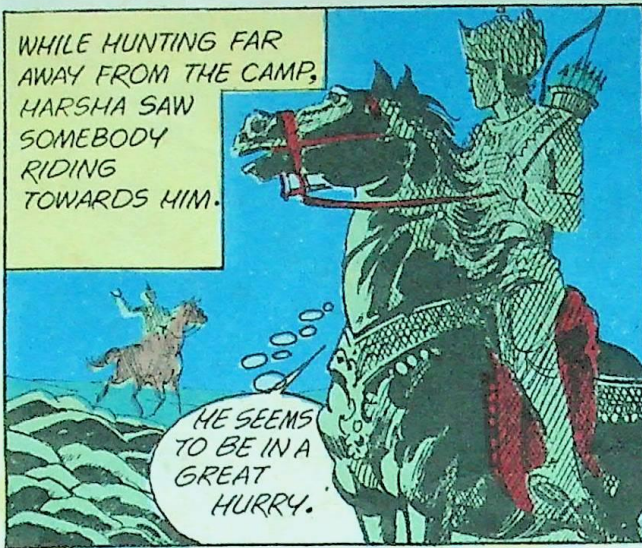


THE HUNS DID NOT ATTACK AGAIN.

ALL RIGHT,
HARSHA!

THERE HAS
BEEN NO FIGHTING
FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
I THINK I'LL GO
ON A HUNT.





BOTH PRINCES RUSHED TO THANESHWAR, BUT THEY WERE TOO LATE.





PRINCE HARSHA
IS RIGHT,
SIR.

CERTAINLY NOT.
BEING THE ELDER BROTHER,
IT IS YOUR RIGHT
AND DUTY TO RULE.



LONG LIVE
KING
RAJYAVARDHAN.

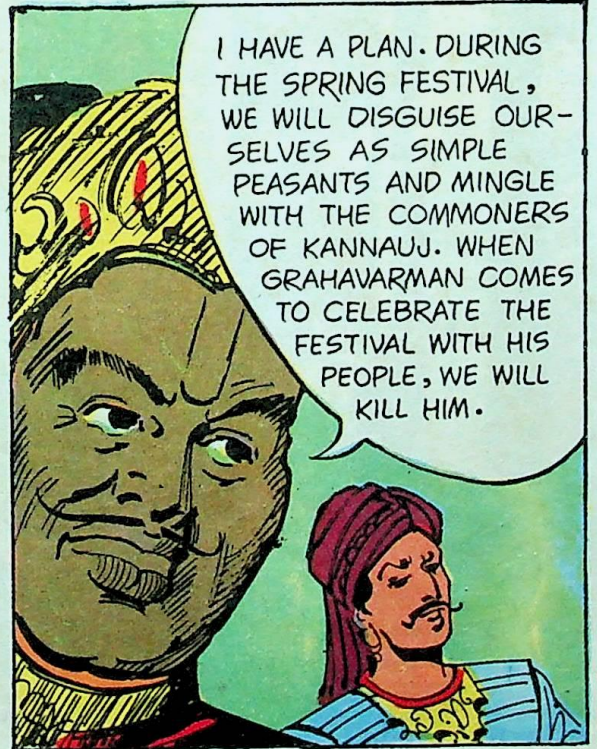
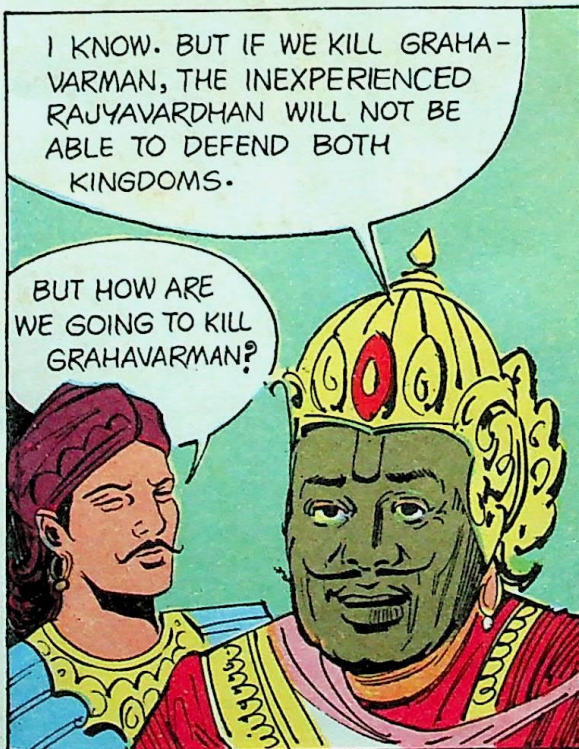


MY
BROTHERS
ARE YOUNG AND
INEXPERIENCED. PLEASE
GUIDE THEM.

IF YOU
WISH, I WILL GO
AND MEET THEM
AFTER THE SPRING
FESTIVAL.

RAJYASHRI, THEIR SISTER, WAS WORRIED. SHE TALKED
TO HER HUSBAND GRAHAVARMAN, THE KING OF KANNAUJ.

MEANWHILE, DEVGUPTA, THE GREEDY KING OF MALWA
WAS BUSY PLOTTING.





ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN, DEVGUPTA AND HIS SOLDIERS DRESSED IN ORDINARY CLOTHES, MINGLED WITH THE PEOPLE OF KANNAUJ. THEN AS KING GRAHAVARMAN WAS ENTERING A TEMPLE -



AFTER KILLING GRAHAVARMAN, DEVGUPTA
FORCIBLY CARRIED RAJYASHRI WITH HIM.

HELP!
HELP!

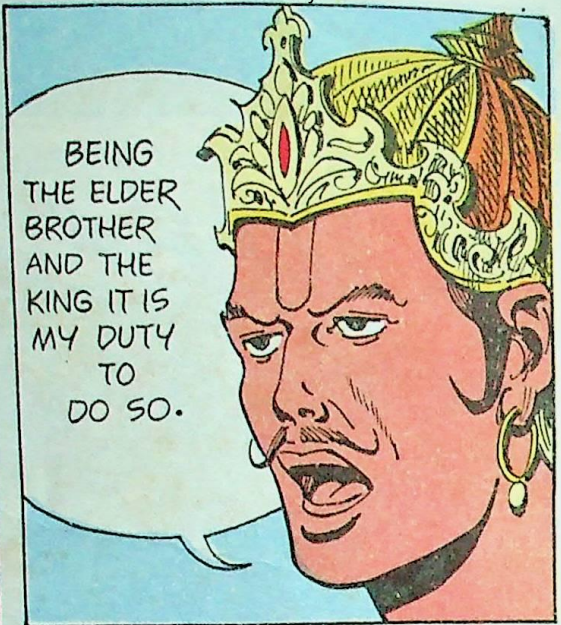


THE NEWS OF DEVGUPTA'S TREACHERY
REACHED RAJYAVARDHAN.

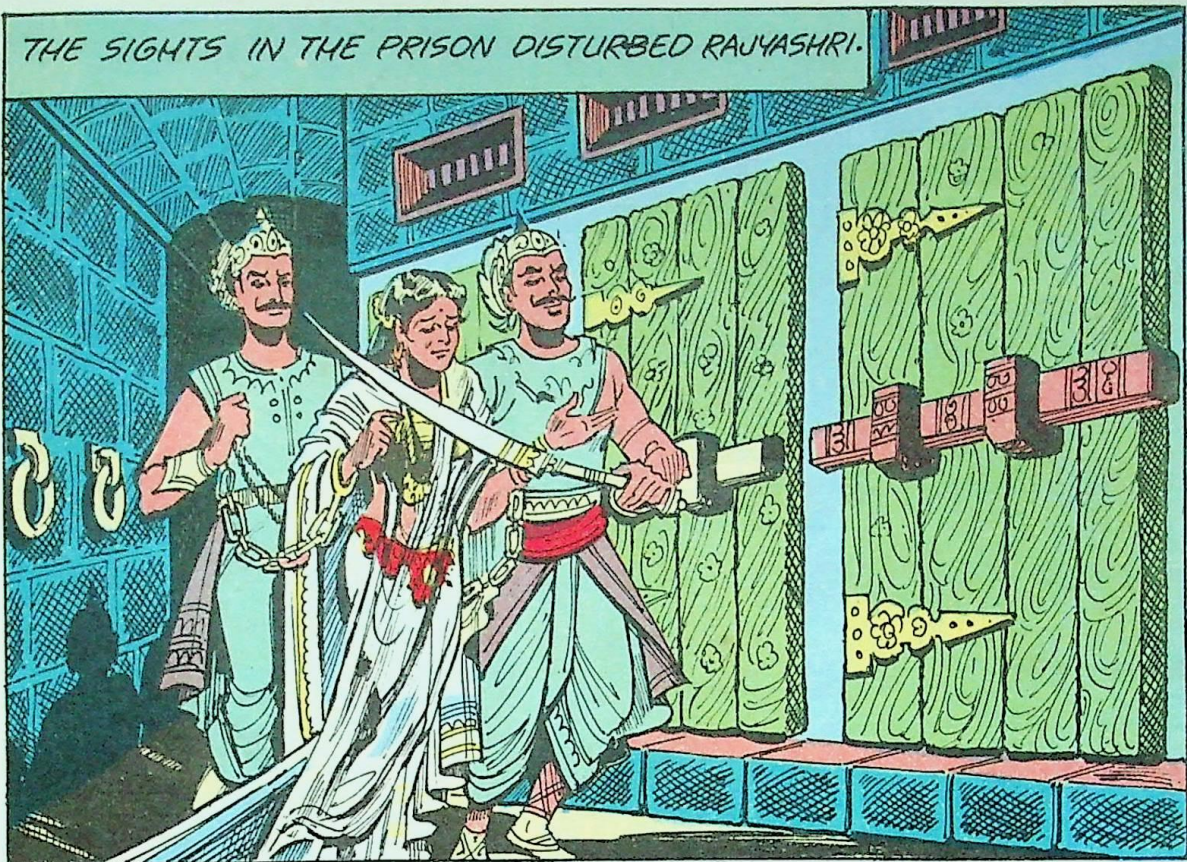
MAHARAJ,
KING DEVGUPTA OF
MALWA, HAS CARRIED AWAY
YOUR SISTER.



DEVGUPTA
HAS INVITED HIS
DEATH.



THE SIGHTS IN THE PRISON DISTURBED RAJYASHRI.



THE PAINFUL CRIES OF OTHER PRISONERS AGONISED HER HEART AND SOUL.



WHILE RAJYASHRI WAS SUFFERING MENTALLY, DEVGUPTA WAS ENJOYING HIMSELF.



JUST THEN DEVGUPTA RECEIVED A MESSAGE.

RAJYAVARDHAN IS PREPARING TO ATTACK US, SIR!

I EXPECTED THIS. GO AND CALL KING SHASHANK OF GAUD. I WANT TO TALK TO HIM.

VERY SOON DEVGUPTA WAS SCHEMING WITH SHASHANK.

I WILL SHARE HALF OF THE KINGDOMS OF THANE-SHWAR AND KANNAUJ WITH YOU IF YOU HELP ME.

I WILL. WHAT MUST I DO?

WIN RAJYAVARDHAN'S CONFIDENCE AND ACCOMPANY HIM IN HIS ATTACK ON ME.

WHEN THE BATTLE BEGINS, ATTACK RAJYAVARDHAN FROM THE REAR. ONCE HE IS DEAD, WE'VE AS GOOD AS WON.

YOUR PLAN IS EXCELLENT. WE SHALL DEFINITELY SUCCEED.

SO, SHASHANK WITH HIS EVIL INTENTIONS
MARCHED WITH RAJYAVARDHAN TOWARDS MALWA.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU
FOR YOUR HELP, KING
SHASHANK. YOU SHALL
ALWAYS BE MY MOST
TRUSTED FRIEND.



MY PERSONAL GUARDS
SHALL PROTECT YOU
WHILE YOU
FIGHT.



BECAUSE OF THE BATTLE, EVERYTHING WAS DISORGANISED IN DEVGUPTA'S PRISON.

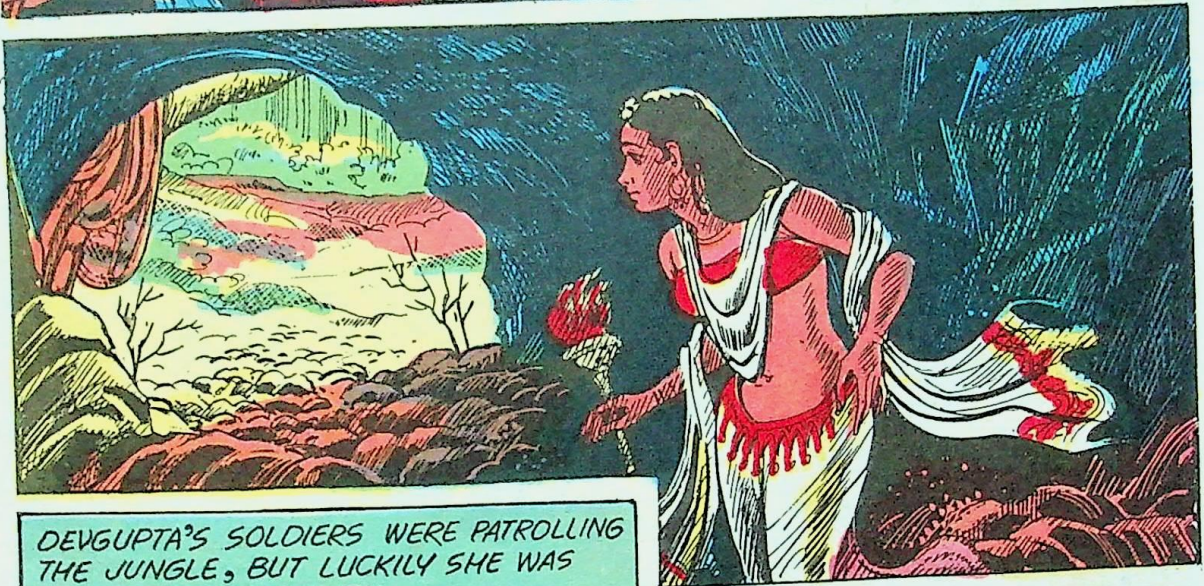
WE NEED ALL THE
SOLDIERS. LEAVE ONLY
ONE MAN TO
GUARD THE
PRISON.

THE SOLDIER LEFT TO GUARD
THE PRISON, POSSESSED A NOBLE HEART.

THIS SECRET
PASSAGE WILL
CARRY YOU TO THE
JUNGLE.

THANK YOU.
YOU ARE VERY
NOBLE. PLEASE TAKE
CARE OF YOURSELF.

THUS RAJYASHRI ESCAPED FROM
DEVGUPTA'S PRISON.



DEVGUPTA'S SOLDIERS WERE PATROLLING
THE JUNGLE, BUT LUCKILY SHE WAS
NOT SPOTTED BY THEM.



FINALLY RAJYASHRI
ESCAPED INTO THE JUNGLE.



MEANWHILE RAJYAVARDHAN FOUGHT FIERCELY. SHASHANK WAS HELPLESS AS HE WAS SURROUNDED BY RAJYAVARDHAN'S PERSONAL GUARDS.



FINALLY RAJYAVARDHAN KILLED DEVGUPTA AND WON THE BATTLE.

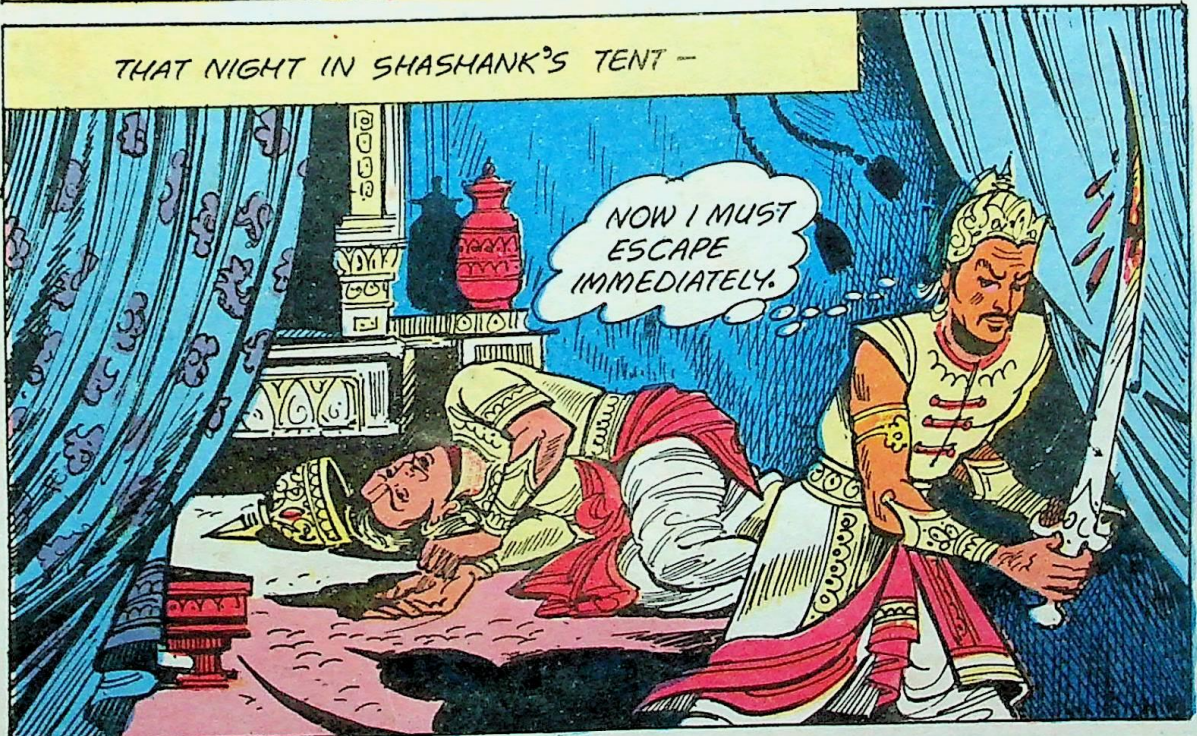


SHASHANK WAS VERY UPSET OVER THE DEATH OF DEVGUPTA.

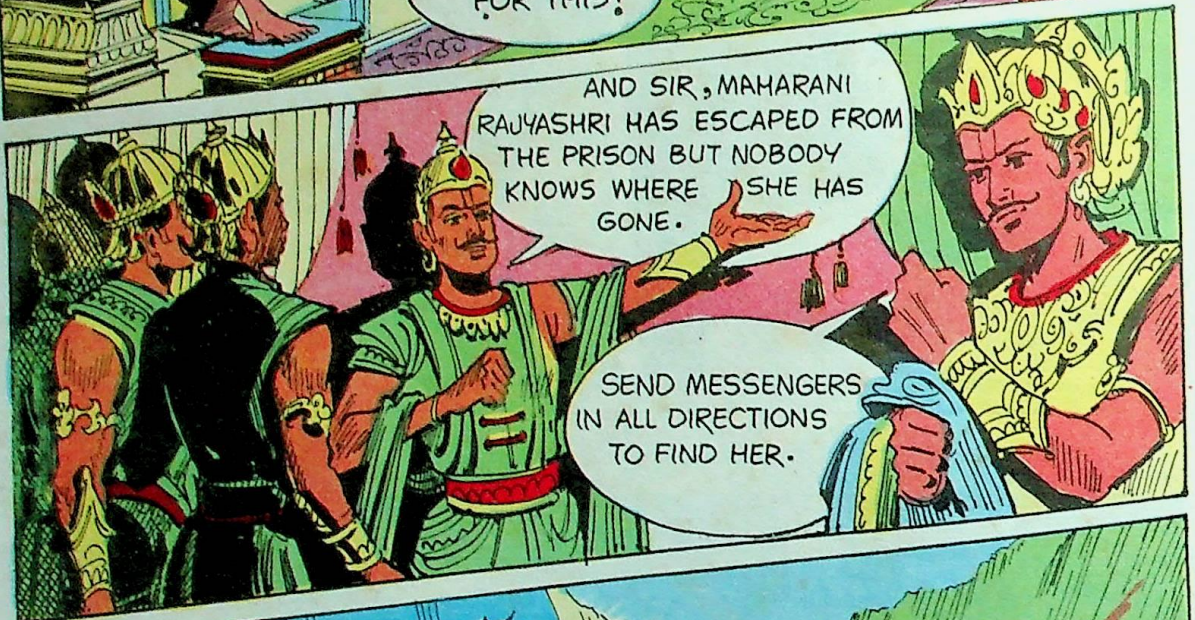
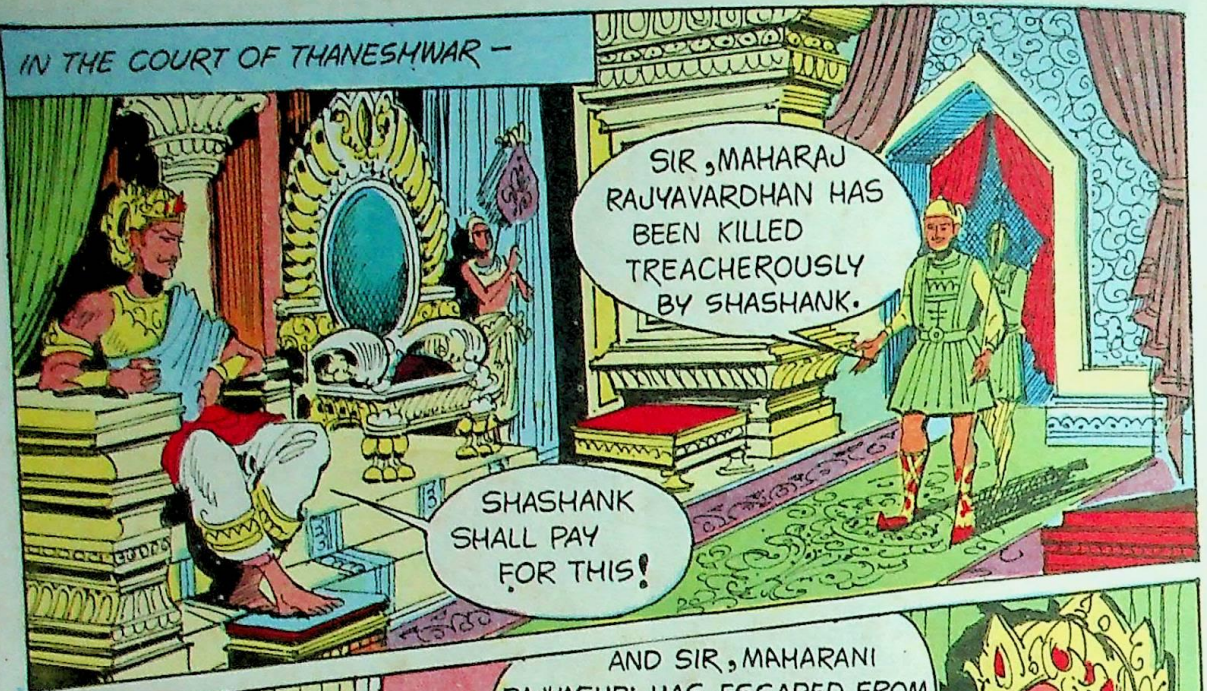




THAT NIGHT IN SHASHANK'S TENT -



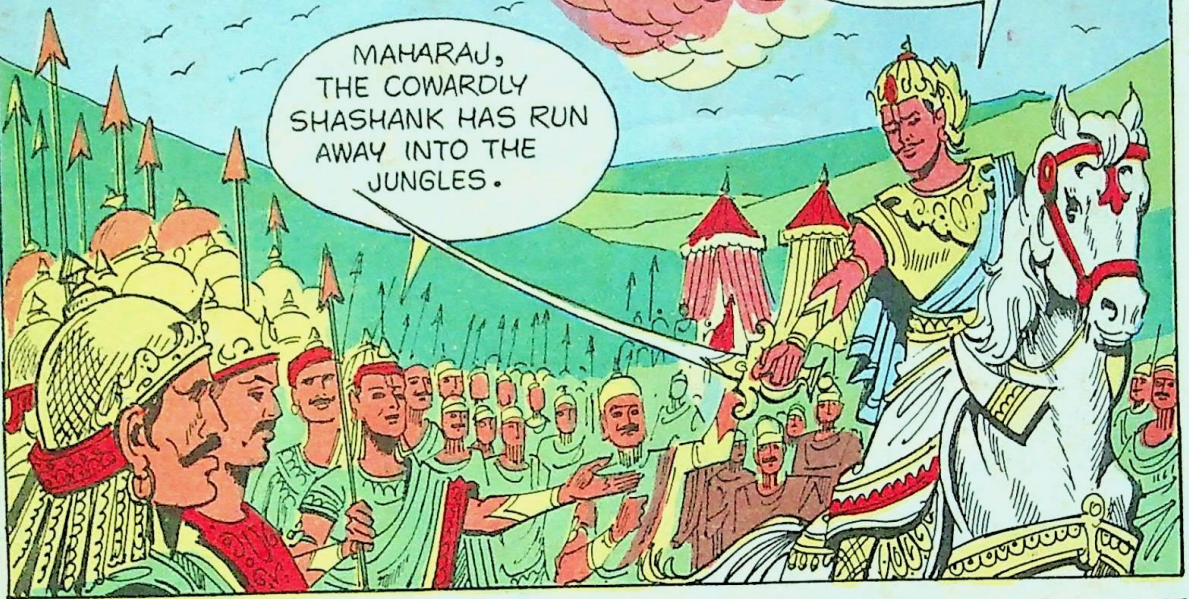
IN THE COURT OF THANESHWAR -



SHASHANK HAD NEVER THOUGHT THAT
YOUNG HARSHA COULD ORGANISE SUCH A LARGE FORCE.

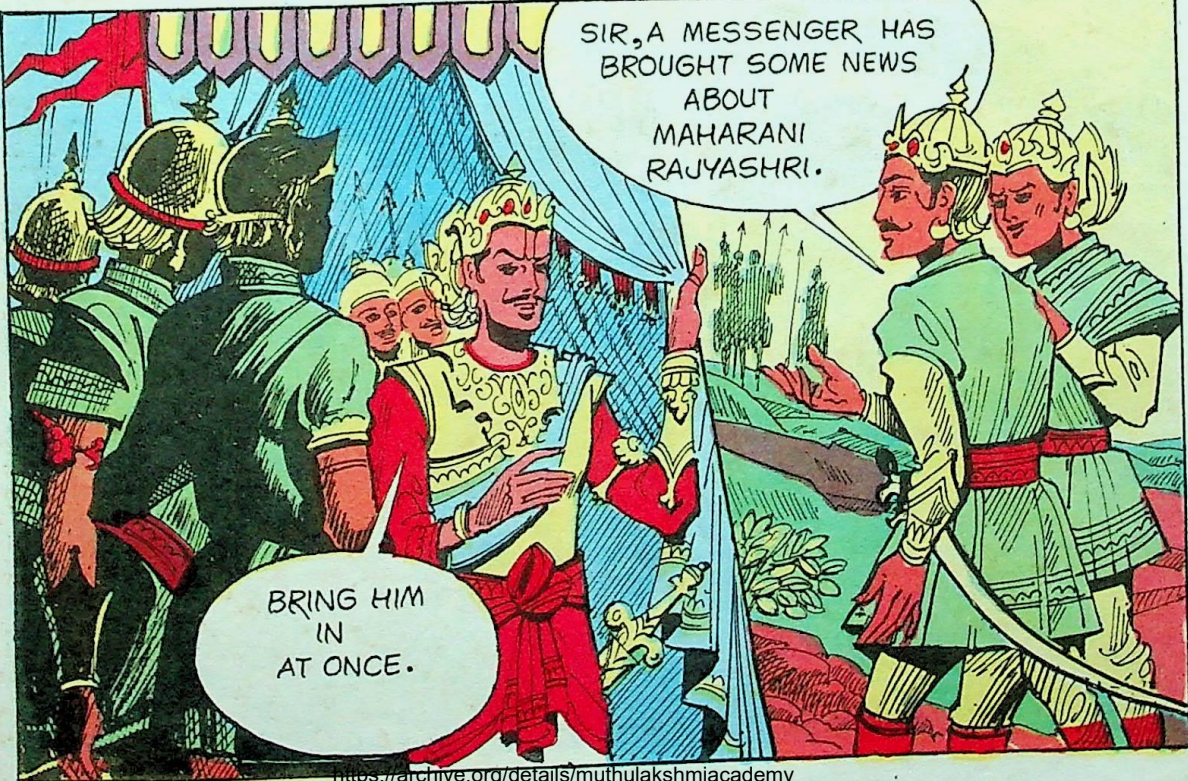
ONE DAY HE WILL DIE
A DOG'S DEATH
BUT JUST NOW
I MUST FIND
MY SISTER
RAJYASHRI.

MAHARAJ,
THE COWARDLY
SHASHANK HAS RUN
AWAY INTO THE
JUNGLES.



SIR, A MESSENGER HAS
BROUGHT SOME NEWS
ABOUT
MAHARANI
RAJYASHRI.

BRING HIM
IN
AT ONCE.





MEANWHILE, RAJYASHRI WAS
DISTURBED OVER HER FATE.

THERE IS
NOBODY TO
HELP ME.

WHY SHOULD I
LIVE ANY
MORE.

BROTHER
HARSHA!

STOP!
SISTER
STOP!

YES,
BUT STILL
OTHERS WOULD
CONTINUE TO
SUFFER, BECAUSE
OF PETTY QUARRELS
BETWEEN DIFFERENT
KINGDOMS.

YOUR
BAD DAYS ARE
NOW OVER,
DEAR
SISTER.

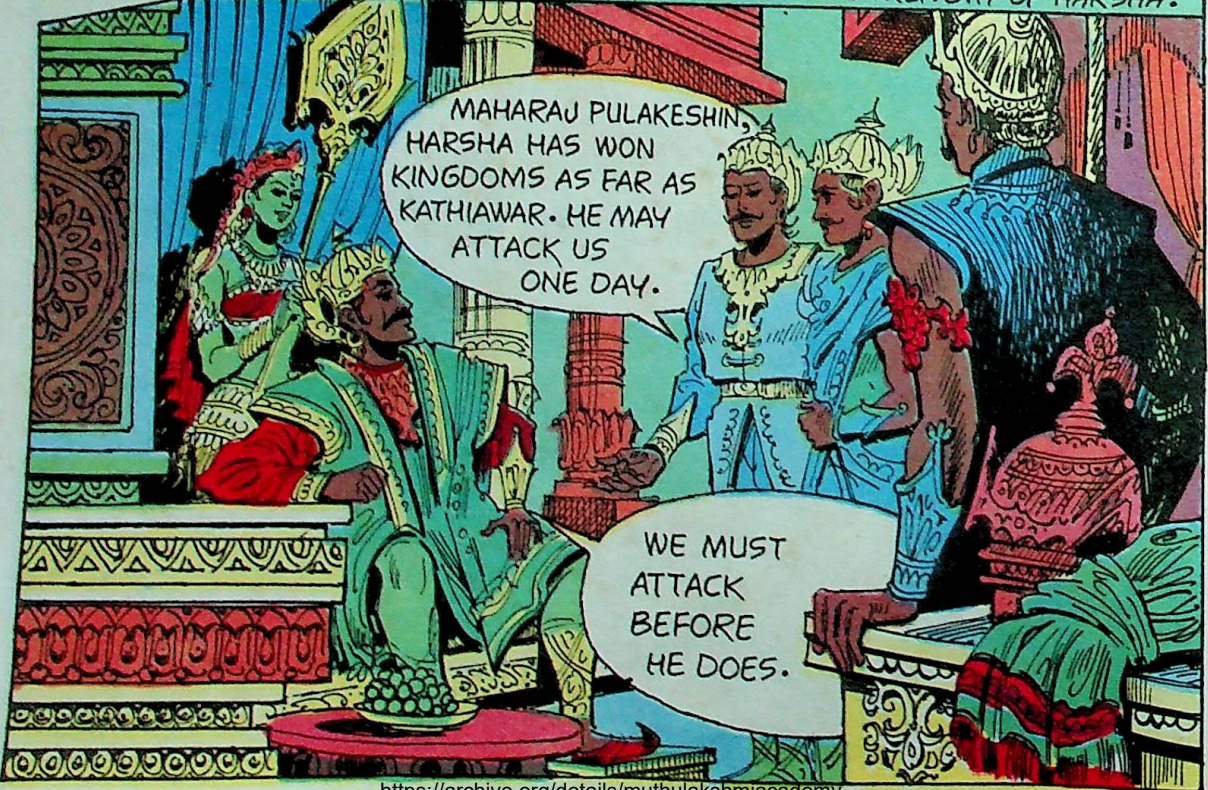
I PLEDGE
THAT I WILL
UPROOT THE
CAUSE OF
THESE SUF-
FERINGS.

AND VERY SOON HARSHA CONQUERED THE VARIOUS SMALL KINGDOMS
TO BRING LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN INDIA.



NOW THAT ALL THE
KINGDOMS HAVE COME
UNDER ONE FLAG, THERE
WOULD BE NO MORE BATTLES
BETWEEN THEM. POOR
PEASANTS WILL LIVE
IN PEACE AT LAST.

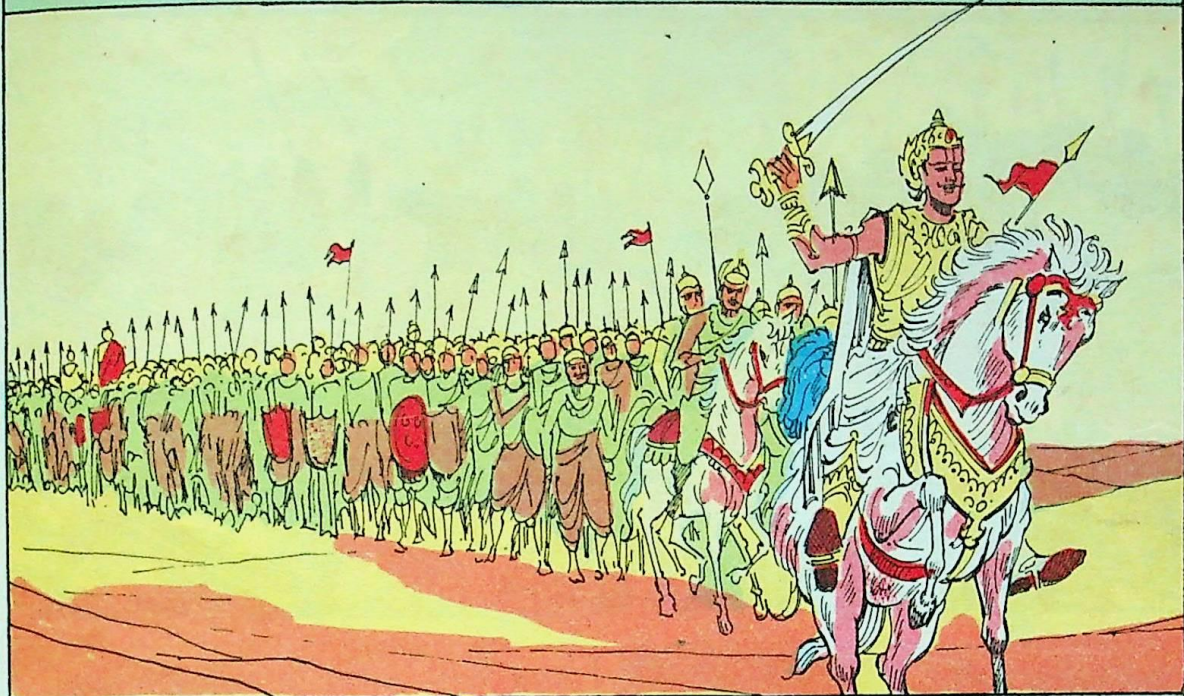
UNAWARE OF HARSHA'S PEACE-PLANS
THE GREAT SOUTH INDIAN KING, PULAKESHIN
WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE RISING STRENGTH OF HARSHA.



MAHARAJ PULAKESHIN,
HARSHA HAS WON
KINGDOMS AS FAR AS
KATHIAWAR. HE MAY
ATTACK US
ONE DAY.

WE MUST
ATTACK
BEFORE
HE DOES.

HARSHA WAS RETURNING HOME AFTER CONQUERING KATHIAWAR. HIS SOLDIERS WERE TIRED AND EAGER TO REACH HOME.



AND AT THAT MOMENT PULAKESHIN ATTACKED HARSHA.



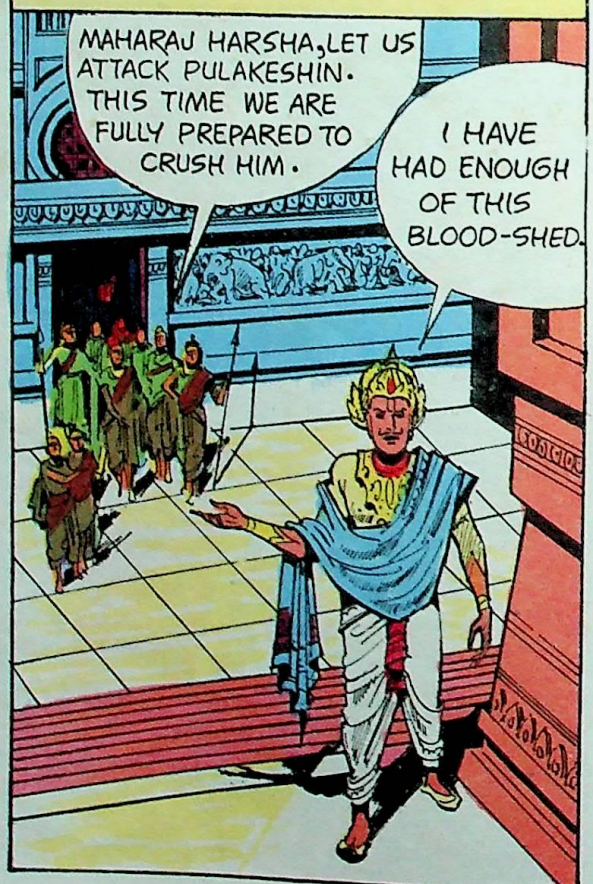
THE FIGHTING CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
LOSSES WERE HEAVY ON BOTH SIDES.



HARSHA'S TIRED SOLDIERS HAD TO
RETREAT. HE WAS VERY SAD.

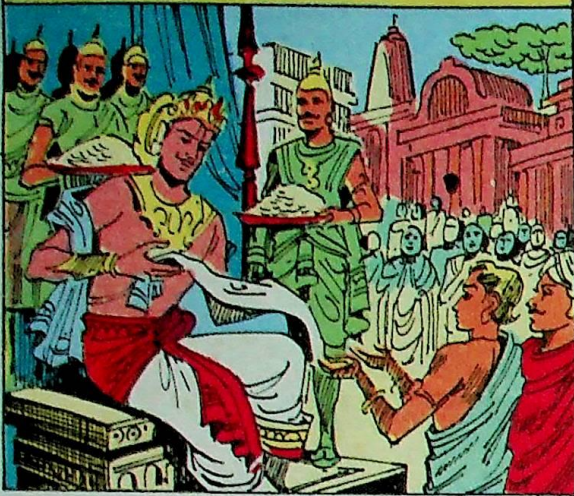


SOMETIME LATER IN THANESHWAR -

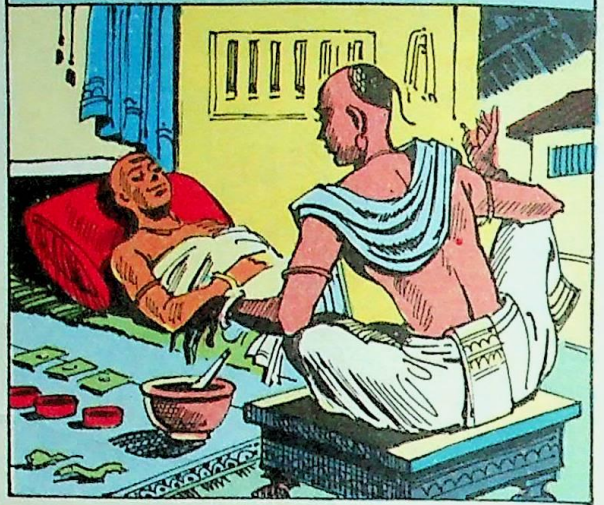




TO FULFIL HIS DREAM, HARSHA GAVE
FINANCIAL HELP TO THE POOR.



HE APPOINTED PHYSICIANS TO TREAT
THE SICK FREE OF COST.



HE HELPED STUDENTS TO PURSUE
THEIR STUDIES.



DURING HIS TIME, TRADERS CAME
FROM AS FAR AS CHINA.



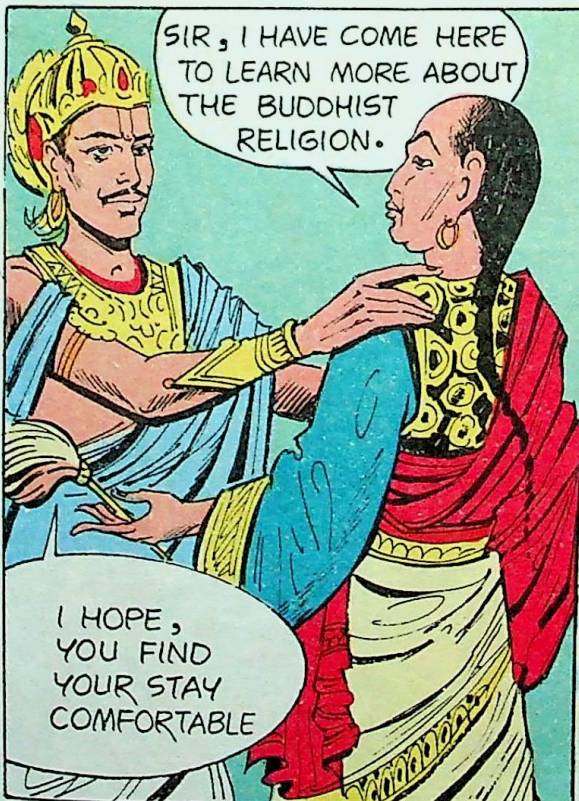
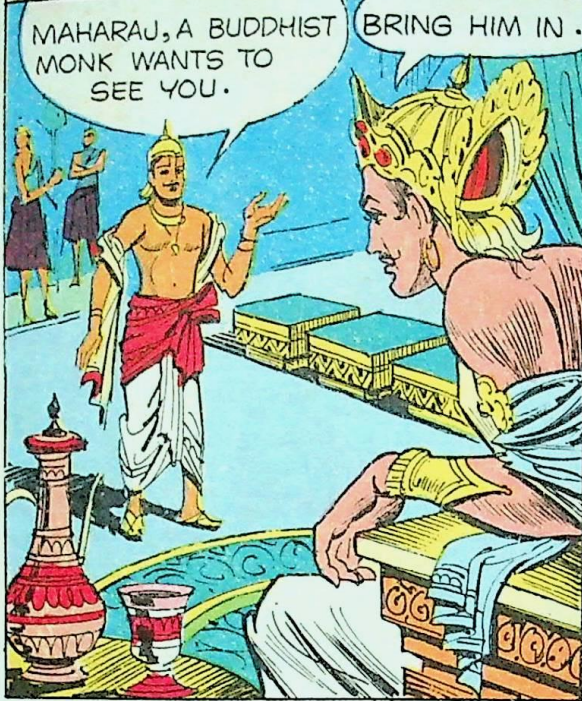
PEOPLE PROSPERED.



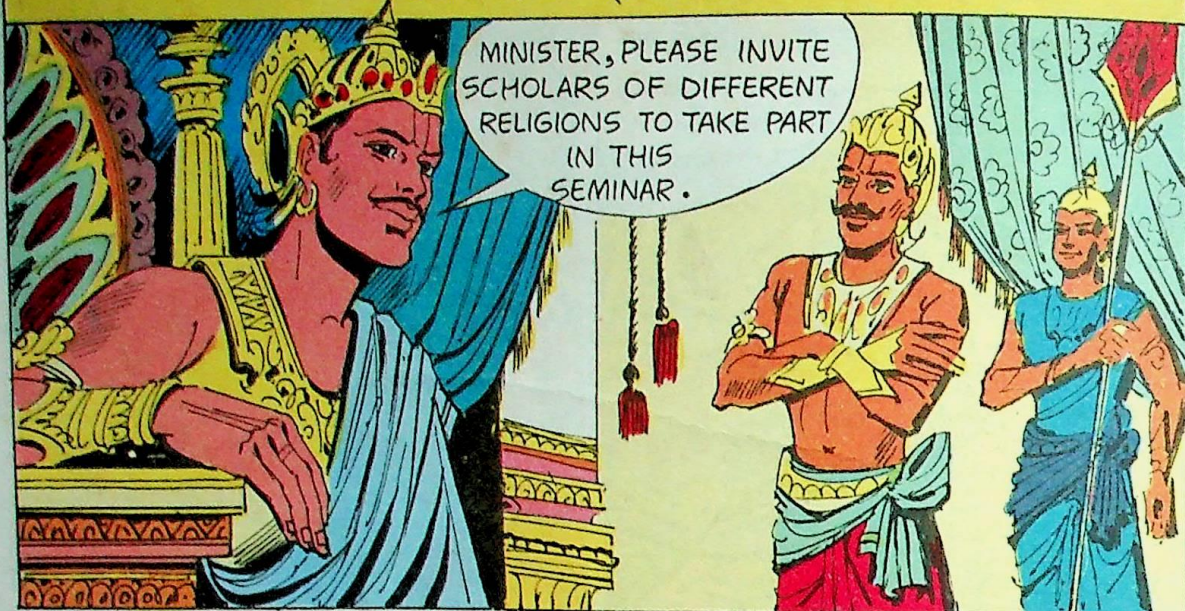
AND FOLLOWERS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS
LIVED IN PEACE AND HARMONY.



DURING THIS PERIOD, HIUEN TSANG, THE FAMOUS CHINESE PILGRIM AND SCHOLAR CAME TO INDIA. AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME IN EASTERN INDIA, HE MET HARSHA.



DURING HIUEN TSANG'S STAY, HARSHA DECIDED TO HOLD
A SEMINAR ON RELIGIONS.



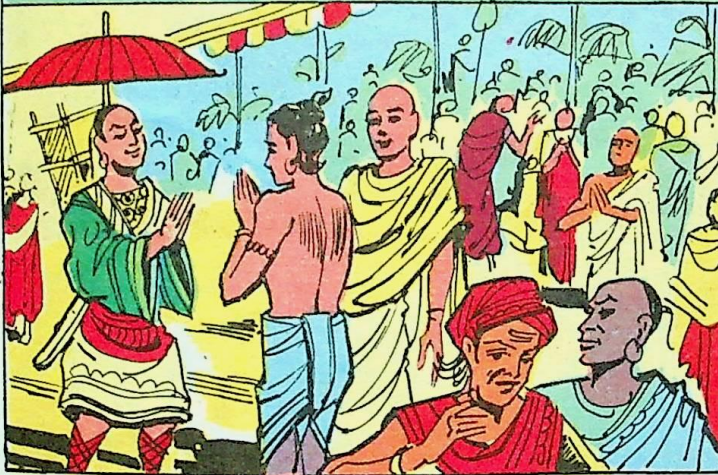
EMINENT SCHOLARS OF HINDUISM, JAINISM AND BUDDHISM CAME
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR.



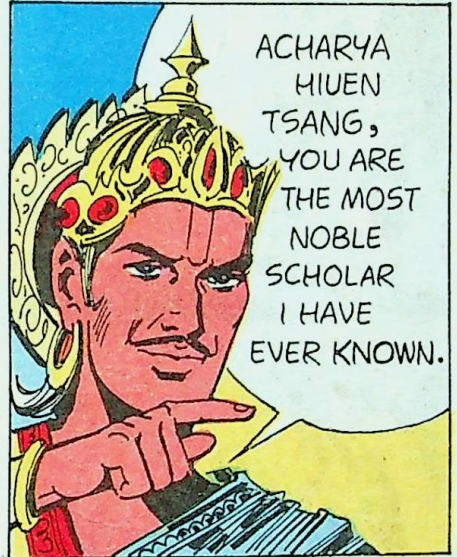
THE SEMINAR CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.



HUIEN TSANG TOO PARTICIPATED IN THE SEMINAR.

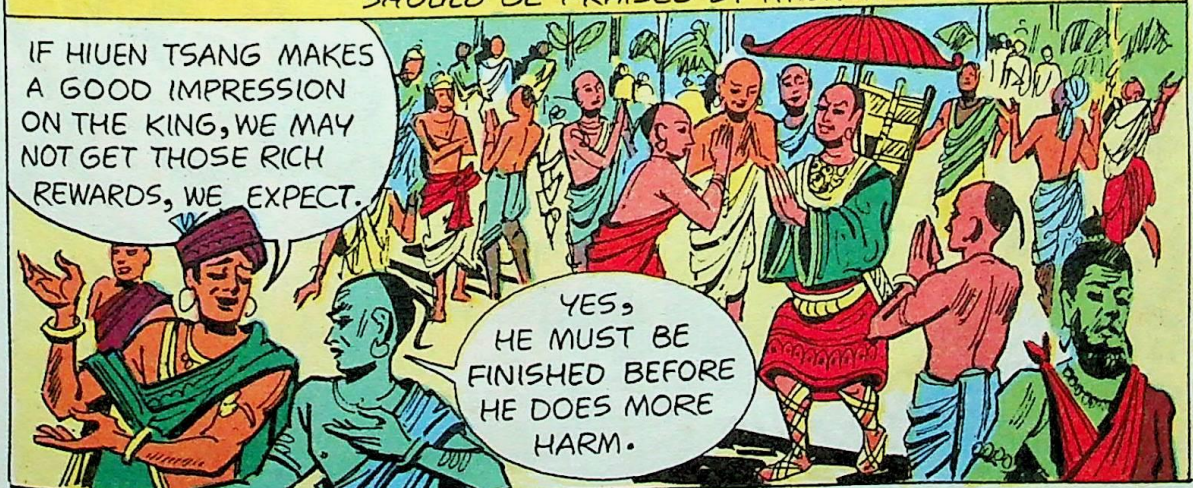


ACHARYA HUIEN TSANG, YOU ARE THE MOST NOBLE SCHOLAR I HAVE EVER KNOWN.



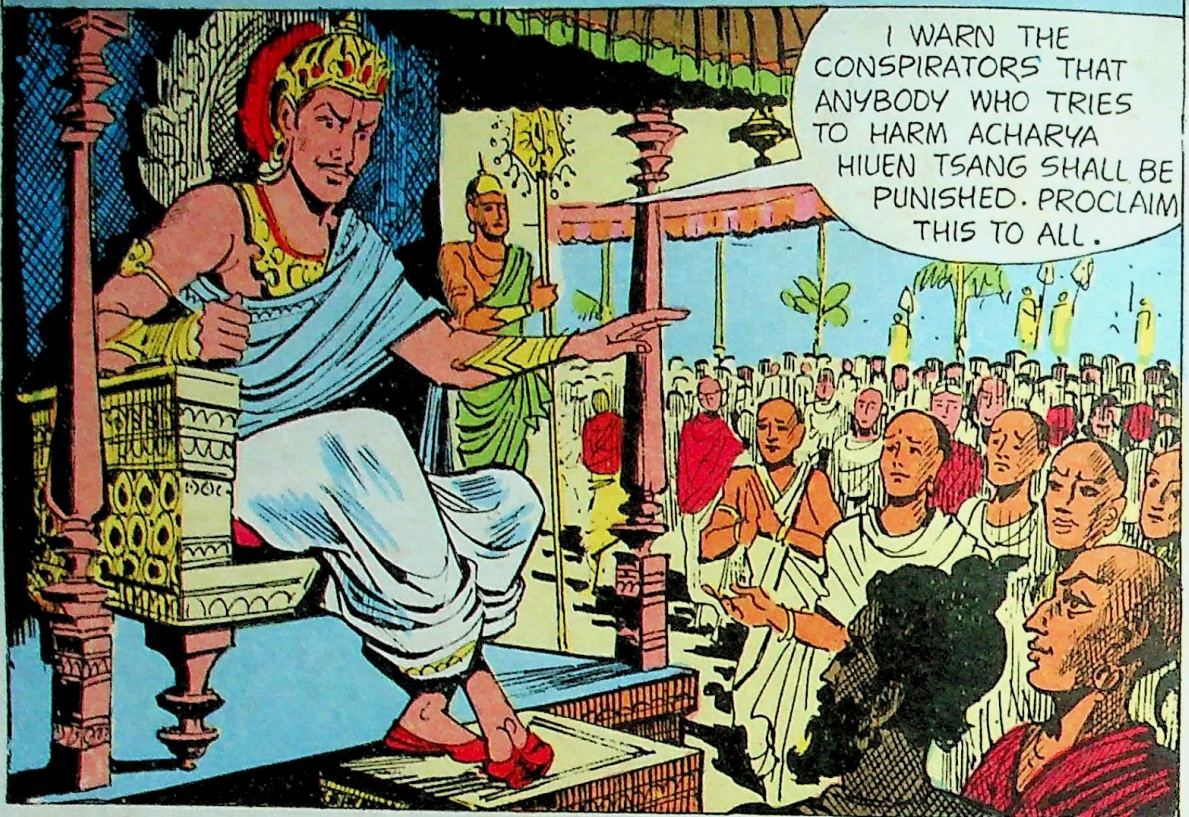
BUT SOME OF THE GREEDY PARTICIPANTS DID NOT LIKE THAT A FOREIGNER SHOULD BE PRAISED BY THEIR KING.

IF HUIEN TSANG MAKES A GOOD IMPRESSION ON THE KING, WE MAY NOT GET THOSE RICH REWARDS, WE EXPECT.



YES, HE MUST BE FINISHED BEFORE HE DOES MORE HARM.

BUT THIS CONSPIRACY WAS REPORTED TO HARSHA IMMEDIATELY.



AS A RESULT OF THIS STERN WARNING,
NOBODY TRIED TO HARM
HIEN TSANG.

THE SEMINAR IS OVER.
THE SCHOLARS SHOULD
NOW BE PRESENTED
WITH GIFTS.



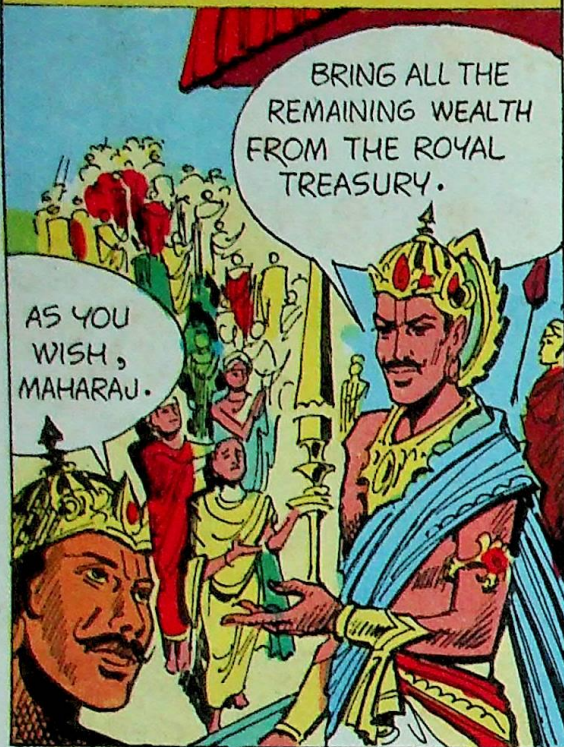
FROM THE NEXT DAY, HARSHA STARTED PRESENTING GIFTS TO THE SCHOLARS AND PRIESTS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.



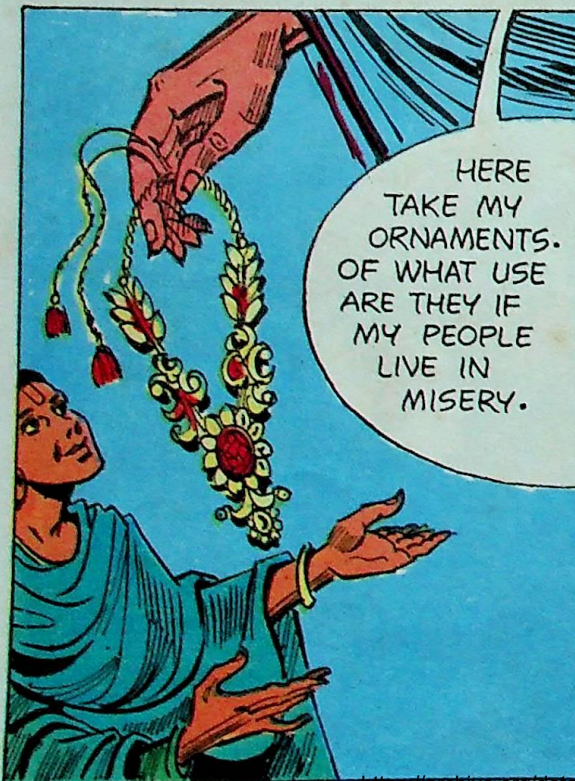
THEN CAME THE TURN OF POOR PEASANTS.



SOON THE GIFTS BROUGHT FOR DONATION WERE EXHAUSTED. BUT STILL MANY PEOPLE REMAINED WITHOUT GIFTS.



THE ROYAL WEALTH WAS ALSO GIVEN AWAY BUT EVEN THEN SOME PEOPLE WERE LEFT OUT.



IN THE END ONLY ONE MAN WAS LEFT OUT.





IN THIS MANNER, EVERY FIVE YEARS, HARSHA GAVE AWAY ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE SCHOLARS, THE PRIESTS AND THE POOR.



AFTER COMPLETING HIS STUDIES, HIUEN TSANG WENT BACK TO CHINA. HE CARRIED WITH HIM MEMOIRS OF HIS VISIT WHICH BECAME WORLD FAMOUS AS TESTIMONIES OF OUR GREAT ANCIENT HERITAGE.

I HAVE KNOWN MANY KINGS BUT THERE IS NONE LIKE HARSHA. I HAVE SEEN MANY COUNTRIES BUT THERE IS NONE LIKE BHARAT. TRULY BHARAT IS A GREAT COUNTRY AND HER GREATNESS LIES IN HER PEOPLE AND IN HER RULERS LIKE HARSHA.



WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

ACK EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

ABHIMANYU
ANDHAKA
ANIRUDDHA
ARJUNA, TALES OF
ARUNI AND UTTANKA
ASHWINI KUMARS
AYYAPPAN
BAHUBALI
BALARAMA, TALES OF
BHEEMA AND HANUMAN
BHEESHMA
CHANDRAHASA
CHURNING OF THE OCEAN
DASHARATHA
DHURVA AND ASHTAVAKRA
DRAUPADI
DRONA
DURGA, TALES OF
ELEPHANTA
GANDHARI
GANESHA
GANGA
GARUDA
GHATOTKACHA
GITA, THE
GOLDEN MONGOOSE, THE
HANUMAN
HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE
HARISCHANDRA
INDRA AND SHACHI
INDRA AND SHIBI
JAGANNATHA OF PURI
JAYADRATHA
KACHA AND DEVAYANI
KARNA
KARTTIKEYA
KRISHNA
KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA
KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA
KRISHNA AND RUKMINI
KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA
KRISHNA AND THE FALSE
VAASUDEVA
KUMBHAKARNA
LORD OF LANKA, THE
MAHABHARATA
MAHARAVANA
NACHIKETA
NAHUSHA
NALA DAMAYANTI
NARADA, TALES OF
PANDAVA PRINCES, THE
PANDAVAS IN THE HIDING, THE
PRAHLAD
RAMA
RAVANA HUMBLE
SATI AND SHIVA
SAVITRI
SHIVA PARVATI
SHIVA, TALES OF
SONS OF RAMA, THE
SUDAMA
SURYA
SYAMANTAKA GEM, THE
TRIPURA
ULOOPI
UPANISHADS, TALES FROM
VALI

VISHNU, TALES OF
VISHWAMITRA
YAYATI
YUDHISHTHIRA, TALES OF

ACK INDIAN CLASSICS

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

ANANDA MATH
ANCESTORS OF RAMA
DEVI CHOUDHURANI
KANNAGI
KAPALA KUNDALA
MALAVIKA
RATNAVALI
SHAKUNTALA
UDAYANA
URVASHI
VASANTASENA
VASAVADATTA

ACK FABLES AND HUMOUR

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

ACROBAT AND OTHER
BUDDHIST TALES, THE
ADVENTURES OF
AGAD DATTA, THE
ADVENTURES OF
BADDU AND CHHOTU, THE
AMRAPALI
ANGULMALA
BAG OF GOLD COINS, A
BATTLE OF WITS
BIKAL THE TERRIBLE
BIRBAL STORIES

BIRBAL THE CLEVER
BIRBAL THE GENIUS
BIRBAL THE JUST
BIRBAL THE WISE
BIRBAL THE WITTY
BIRBAL TO THE RESCUE
THE INIMITABLE BIRBAL
CELESTIAL NECKLACE, THE
CHANDRALALAT
COWHERD OF ALAWI, THE
FEARLESS BOY AND OTHER
BUDDHIST TALES, THE
FOOL'S DISCIPLES, THE
FRIENDS AND FOES
GOPAL AND THE COWHERD
GOPAL THE JESTER

HITOPADESHA TALES

CHOICE OF FRIENDS
HOW FRIENDS ARE PARTED

JATAKA TALES

BIRD STORIES
DEADLY FEAST, THE
DEER STORIES
ELEPHANT STORIES
GIANT & THE DWARF, THE
HIDDEN TREASURE, THE
JACKAL STORIES
MAGIC CHANT, THE
MONKEY STORIES
MOUSE MERCHANT, THE
NANDIVISHALA
STORIES OF COURAGE
STORIES OF WISDOM
TALES OF MISERS

TRUE FRIENDS
KESARI THE FLYING THIEF
KING KUSHA
LEARNED PANDIT, THE
MAGIC GROVE, THE
MARYADA RAMA, TALES OF
PANCHATANTRA TALES

BRAHMIN & THE GOAT
CROWS AND OWLS
DULLARD AND OTHER
STORIES
GREEDY MOTHER-IN-LAW, THE
HOW THE JACKAL ATE THE
ELEPHANT
JACKAL & THE
WAR DRUM, THE
PRICELESS GEM, THE
PRINCE AND THE
MAGICIAN
QUEEN'S NECKLACE, THE
PANDIT AND THE MILKMAID
RAMAN OF TENALI
RAMAN THE MATCHLESS WIT
SAKSHI GOPAL
SHRENIK
TIGER & THE WOODPECKER,
TIGER-EATER, THE
VIKRAMADITYA'S THRONE

ACK BRAVEHEARTS

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

AJATASHATRU
AKBAR
AMAR SINGH RATHOR
ASHOKA
BAGHA JATIN
BAJI RAO I
BALADITYA & YASHODHARMA
BANDA BAHADUR
BAPPA RAWAL
BHAGAT SINGH
BIMBISARA
CHAND BIBI
CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD
CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA
DURGADAS
ELLORA CAVES
HARSHA
HISTORIC CITY OF DELHI, THE
JAHANGIR
JALLIANWALA BAGH
KALPANA CHAWLA
KRISHNADEVA RAYA
LACHIT BARPHUKAN
LALITADITYA
MANGAL PANDE
NOOR JAHAN
PADMINI
PANNA AND HADI RANI
PAURAVA AND ALEXANDER
PRITHVIRAJ CHAUHAN
RAJA BHOJA
RAJA RAJA CHOLA
RANA KUMBHA
RANA PRATAP
RANA SANGA
RANI DURGAVATI
RANI OF JHANSI
RANJIT SINGH
RASH BEHARI BOSE

SAMUDRA GUPTA
SHAH JAHAN
SHALIVAHANA
SHIVAJI
SHIVAJI, TALES OF
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
SULTANA RAZIA
TANAJI
TIPU SULTAN
VEER HAMMIR
VEER SAVARKAR
VIKRAMADITYA

ACK VISIONARIES

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

ADI SHANKARA
AMBEDKAR, BABASAHEB
BASAVESHWARA
BIRLA G.D.
BUDDHA
CHANAKYA
CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU
CHINMAYANANDA, SWAMI
CHOKHA MELA
DAYANANDA
DESHBANDHU
CHITTANRANJAN DAS
FA HIEN
GURU ARIAN
GURU GOBIND SINGH
GURU NANAK
GURU TEGH BAHADUR
HIJEN TSANG
J.R.D. TATA
JAGADIS CHANDRA BOSE
JAMSETJI TATA
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN
JNANESHWAR
KABIR
KALIDASA
LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI
LOKAMANYA TILAK
MADHVACHARYA
MAHATMA GANDHI
MAHAVIRA
MEGASTHENES
MIRABAI
PRANAVANANDA, SWAMI
RABINDRANATH TAGORE
RAMAKRISHNA, SRI
RAMANA MAHARSHI
RAMANUJA
RAM SHASTRI
SAIBABA, TALES OF
SHANKAR DEV
SOORDAS
SUBRAMANIA BHARATI
TANSEN
TULSIDAS
VIDYASAGAR
VIVEKANANDA
ZARATHUSHTRA

ACK SPECIAL ISSUES

BHAGAWAT - THE KRISHNA
AVATAR
DASHA AVATAR
JESUS CHRIST
MAHABHARATA
RAM CHARIT MANAS
VALMIKI'S RAMAYANA

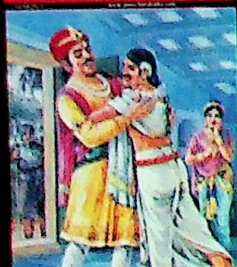


HARSHA

Starting off as the ruler of tiny Thaneshwar, Harsha (7th century AD) rose to become the powerful monarch of the kingdom of Kanauj. He avenged the wicked assassination of his elder brother and the cowardly abduction of his sister. His biographer Bana Bhatta and the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang were unanimous in their praise of this learned king, whose fame did much to create a glowing image of India in lands far away.

OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS:

RAJA BHOJA



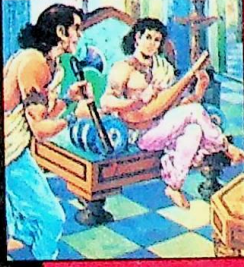
CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA



PAURAVA AND ALEXANDER



SAMUDRA GUPTA

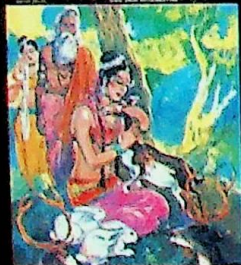


ALSO LOOK FOR:

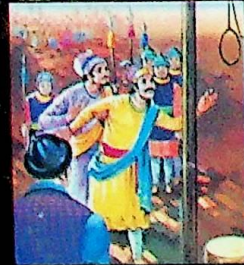
HANUMAN



SHAKUNTALA



BIRBAL THE WISE



JAMSETJI TATA



EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

INDIAN CLASSICS

FABLES & HUMOUR

VISIONARIES



"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS
<https://archive.org/details/muthulakshmiacademy>

www.ack-media.com

ISBN 81-89999-66-4



9 788189 999667